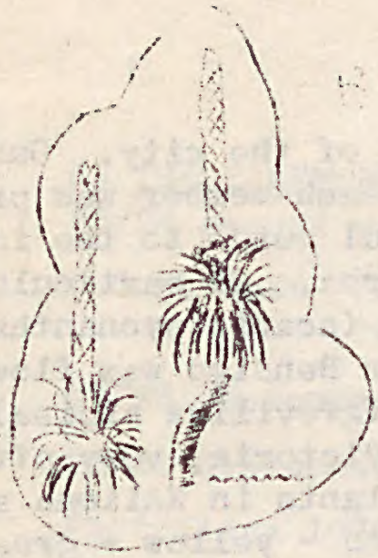

BALLARAT FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

EXCURSION/NEWS SHEET - AUGUST 1975

PRESIDENT: Mr. W. Murphy, 1320 Dana St, Ballarat.
SECRETARY: Mr. P. Fry, 119 Stawell St, Ballarat.
TREASURER: Mr. S. Reynolds, 22 Howitt St, Ballarat.
EDITOR: Miss E. Fry, Phone 326454.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, 1st August, 1975.
Central Tech, 8 p.m.
FILMS, Across the Nullarbor
Along the Escarpment (Arnhem Land)

NEXT OUTING

Sunday, 3rd August, 1975
Pax Hill Area
LEADER- Mrs. Bedggood

LAST MEETING

Mr. Phil Day gave an interesting talk on the local geography, geology that should be. He gave some interesting views on pollution in Lakes Burrumbeet and Learmonth, and told us that geology was rather hard to study in and around Ballarat as there are not many deep cuttings for roads about. Thanks for the talk, Phil.

LAST OUTING

EXCURSION TO CASTLEMAINE 6/7/75
Kaweka Wildflower Sanctuary.
This sanctuary contains native plants in a bush setting. Some plants seen in flower were an early flowering acacia baileyana, a beautiful weeping plant of hakea laurina, grevillea, dryaphylla, an abundance of hakea servicea, several forms of correa and a showy eroweа exulata. Probably as a result of the many flowering native plants, there was an abundance of bird life. Some of our time was spent pulling out plants of the South African Boneseed that has found it's way into the area. This sanctuary is planned to be a tourist attraction.

Botanic Gardens
Here we had lunch and inspected some of the tall trees that were growing there. Perhaps the most interesting were of a rough barked angophera and a eucalyptus maculata, both being very beautiful trees of our native bushland. Also noted were a wollybutt, eucalyptus longifolia, and in the heavily branched cone we noted a very large flock of honeyeaters.

Kalimna Park Nature Trail.

This park is natural bushland in the eastern part of the city. Our group spent the afternoon walking the nature trail and each member was provided with a bird and plant list as well as a very useful guide to the identification and position of the many plants in the area. Of particular interest were several early flowering golden wattles (acacia pycnantha). Also noted was the beautiful fairy wax flower (or Bendigo wax flower) - eriosteman verrucosus. The goldfields grevillea (grevillea alpina) was seen here. Though this is a shrub widespread in Victoria, very often each area has it's own distinctive form and the plants in KAlimna are unusual because of the wide range in colouring (red - yellow - green - white present in varying amounts.O Our leader for the day was Mr. Ern. Perkins of Castlemaine.

Contributed by Mrs. P. Murphy.

MEMBERS MAY BE INTERESTEDto hear that a copy of ROGER THOMAS' booklet, "Birds of Lake Wendouree" is winging it's way to a bird loving couple from Switzerland who have been spending a six week holiday bird-watching in Australia. They chose the Lamington National Park at Beechmont, South Queensland, as a base for their hobby, selecting that part of Australi because it would be warm at the only time of the year when they are able to be away from their teaching duties in Switzerland. They hope at some future date to travel south so Roger's booklet will be a help to them if ever they manage to come to Ballarat.

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THOSE INTERESTED in Botany, and flowers, would find much enjoyment in Antonia Ridge's latest book, "The Man Who Painted Roses". It took six years of research to obtain material for this story of Pierre-Joseph Redoute, the worlds' most famous painter of flowers. He worked at times for two tragic figures in French history, Queen Marie Antoinette, and Napoleon's ex-Empress, Josephine. The book contains many humanous anecdotes about famous people, an interesting one being that the great botanist Linnaeus was once so poor that he had to use pieces of bark from a tree as soles for his shoes!

Contributed by Miss E. McLenehan.

WHILE WALKING IN Wendouree recently, I was surprised to see a flock of about 50 pelicans flying overhead. They were so quiet that if you had bee blind you would not have ~~xxxxxxx~~ known they were there.

Contributed by Mrs. E. Fry.

ON THE CALENDAR:

23/24 August - W.V.F.N.C.A. campout at Mildura.

5 September - Dr. Watson, will speak at our meeting. Subject will be "Frogs"

27/28 September - Angair Wildflower & Plant Show

27/28 September - Mid-Murray Campout, at Annuello.

Photoflora 1976 - March or April

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER: Old Nessie may be lured to the surface yet. An enterprising fireman in Scotland has made a monster (female, of course) to lure Nessie to the top of the Loch. The female monster is made of paper mache, floats on 44 gallon drums, and is even provided with a pair of fluttering eyelashes. But, how do authorities know that the legendary monster is male?

BUTTERFLIES Part 2

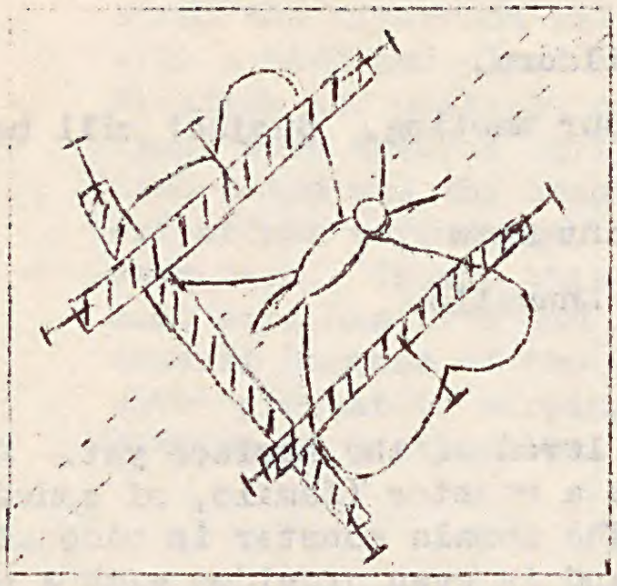
This month - MOUNTING & STORING

After you return from the field trip and you wish to mount the insect straight from the killing jar the wings are still pliable, but if you have had the insect in a wax envelope for some time it must be relaxed in a tin or jar mush the same as the killing jar, except the cotton wool is dampened with water and an anti-mould spray such as Glen-20. The insect should be left in this for at least 24 hours.

To prepare the insect for mounting first pierce the thorax with a pin; a glass headed one is much easier to handle. Now the next step is to pin the insect to the mounting board, which is made out of a sheet of ¾ to 3 inch thick polystyrene foam with a groove varying between ¼ to ½ inch wide, and the same deep. Put the pin in the centre of the groove until the wings are flush with the top of the foam and with the help of tweezers spread the wings (or for a beetle, the legs). Strips of ¼ to ½ inch tissue are used to hold down and spread the wings in place.

Contributed by Andrew McKenzie
(pictures on back page)

OKAY. So what did the salesman say to the lady who was buying a toy alligator for her son? "They're made from re-cycled suitcases".



A Butterfly half spread.

A Beetle pinned

Members will be sorry to hear that one of our younger members, Edwin Bedggood, has ~~xxxxxx~~ smashed his new car, Bad luck, Edwin, and hope you are back on the road soon.

On his way to work the other day, Mr. Fry followed a fox over Black Hill.

NUMBER OF SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES OF VERTEBRATE ANIMALS (WORLDWIDE) ALREADY EXTINCT OR ENDANGERED AS OF 1974

Animal Group	Already Extinct	Critically Endangered	Endangered and/or Rare
Reptiles	28	34	152
Amphibians	-	6	34
Birds	130	66	346
Mammals	68	73	292
Fishes	-	6	79
TOTAL	226	185	903

Befor the appearance of humans, extinction occurred entirely as a result of natural changes in the environment. Some data suggests that extinctition has increased as a result of human activities.

P.S. Mrs. Bedggood would like someone to take her out to Durham Lead at any time.